

MEDIA RELEASE



Grace Cossington Smith biennial
art award 2021
Exhibition of finalists
5 - 26 February 2022

We are excited to announce the winners

Nadia Hernández - the recipient of the acquisitive \$15,000 prize

Alice Wormald - early career artist award \$2,500 non acquisitive

David Collins - local artist award \$2,500 non acquisitive



Nadia Hernández

Grace Cossington Smith art award \$15, 000 acquisitive **Nadia Hernández**



Nadia Hernández is a multidisciplinary artist. She was born in Mérida, Venezuela and lives and works in Sydney and studied at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (fashion) in 2008. Hernández explores her personal and political connections to Venezuela, connecting with memories and narratives that she articulates through her colours, shapes and textures and the poetry of her titles. In 2019 Hernández was awarded the Churchie National Emerging Art Prize and undertook a residency with Bundanon Trust, NSW. Hernández is represented by STATION.

Judges Katrina Cashman and Oliver Watts commented

Dulce de lechoza verde (procedimiento)/Green papaya sweet (procedure), is a beautiful textile work that harks back to Hernández heritage considering ideas of diaspora and food connecting culture and family. It is full of life, tenderness and is a very loving work that represents the connections we all need now.

Dulce de lechoza verde (procedimiento)/Green papaya sweet (procedure), 2021
cotton, linen, and corduroy on linen textile, 145 x 100 cm

Grace Cossington Smith early career artist award \$2,500 non acquisitive **Alice Wormald**



Alice Wormald graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. Wormald creates paintings that develop from a process of image collection and collage that she fragments and reinterprets. Her compositions are layered, combining a softness of brushmark and hard-edge linear patterns creating an illusion and play on visual perspective. Wormald represented by Gallery 9, Sydney.

Judges Comment

Turning in Circles is a contemporary painting that revels in artifice, with her playing with and remaking of found images. It is a work full of contrasts – inside/outside, natural/artificial and a variety of interesting viewpoints.

Turning in Circles, 2020
oil on linen. 140 x 110 cm

Grace Cossington Smith local artist award \$2,500 non acquisitive **David Collins**



David Collins' life on Dangar Island in the Hawkesbury River allows him to live with nature and connect fully with both the water and the land. He has a studio amongst the trees, overlooking the water, and frequently paints and draws en plein air. His view of the landscape with his broad washes of oil paint and calligraphic line ensure a personal and unique style. Collins has been the recipient of artist residencies in Australia and overseas and exhibited regularly. He is represented by Defiance Gallery.

Judges Comment

Hot Burn is an evocative, well observed landscape capturing a strong connection to place. Collins poetically responds to the land through colour, and beautiful glazes provide a sense of depth, heat and refracted light. Also revealed are suggestions of the devastating fires we so recently experienced.

Hot Burn, 2021
oil on Canvas, 122 X 200 cm (diptych)

Grace Cossington Smith art award

The Judges:

The finalists and award winners were selected by guest judges
Katrina Cashman, Gallery Manager & Senior Curator at the National Art School;
Oliver Watts, Senior Curator of Artbank, Sydney and artist.

The Judges were impressed that this National art award attracts contemporary artists from various stages in their career. They noted a very high standard of entries and a great range of talent considering the current tough-going circumstances for artists. The judges felt the submissions were a barometer of contemporary art practice revealing a broad brushstroke of two-dimensional media and styles, with some works challenging traditional notions of contemporary artmaking.

The Awards:

- \$15,000 awarded to the winner (acquisitive).
- \$2,500 awarded to an early career artist.
- \$2,500 awarded to a local artist from Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai area.
- The winners share a three-week group exhibition at the GCS Gallery in 2023

Submissions were invited from Australian artists, aged over 18, for original work in any two-dimensional media in response to the theme Making Connections. Over 425 entries were received from around the country and works by 45 leading and emerging Australian artists were selected as finalists.

The Finalists:

Louise Allerton (NSW), Kim Anderson (VIC), Susan Andrews (NSW), Suzanne Archer (NSW), Dhinawan Baker (NSW), Ed Bartok (NSW), Deborah Beck (NSW), Max Berry (NSW), Lee Bethel (NSW), Amber Boardman (NSW), Kevin Chin (VIC), David Collins (NSW), Yvette Coppersmith (VIC), Jedda-Daisy Culley (NSW), Adrienne Doig (NSW), Chris Dolman (NSW), Nikki Easterbrook (NSW), Sarah Edmondson (NSW), David Fairbairn (NSW), Emily Galicek (NSW), Sophie Lee Georgas (NSW), Liron Gilmore (NSW), Eliza Gosse (NSW), Nadia Hernández (NSW), Nicole Kelly (NSW), Martin King (VIC), Belem Lett (NSW), Steve Lopes (NSW), Tom Loveday (NSW), Paula Mahoney (VIC), Lisa McKimmie (NSW), Bridgette Mcnab (VIC), Anh Nguyen (NSW), Amanda Penrose Hart (NSW), Katya Petetskaya (NSW), Julien Playoust (NSW), Rhonda Pryor (NSW), Cate Riley (NSW), Peter Sharp (NSW), Wendy Sharpe (NSW), Sally Stokes (NSW), Elefteria Vlavianos (NSW), Barbara Weir (NT), Agus Wijaya (NSW), Alice Wormald (VIC),